THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 & Rules framed thereunder, drugs are required to be dispensed under the supervision of a registered pharmacist only. State Licensing Authorities carry out inspections to ensure that the chemists comply with the provision of the said rules while selling of the drugs.

Revival of Moonidih mine project

2089.SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the coking coal prices zooming in the global market, the Steel Authority of India Limited is taking a renewed interest in implementing its long pending proposal to fund an estimated Rs.166 crore project for re-development of Bharat Coking Coal Limited operated Moonidih mine in Jharkhand;

(b) whether the project will ensure an additional coking coal supply of approximately 0.5 million tonne per annum to SAIL, on operation cost-plus basis;

(c) whether the chances of any major increase in production are also limited in the short or medium term; and

(d) to what extent the SAIL has been able to revive BCCL's Moonidih Mine Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has signed a MOU with Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) on 27.4.2006 for providing a soft loan of Rs.166 Crores for phase-I upgradation of 16 Top seam of Moonidih Mine.

(b) As per the terms and conditions of the MOU, the entire production of 0.66 Million Tonnes per annum (MTPA) raw coal/ 0.46 MTPA washed coal will be made available to SAIL at mutually agreed prices.

(c) The production of Moonidih Mine can be further enhanced by developing its 15 seam. SAIL has also expressed its interest to BCCL for funding the development of 15 seam on similar lines.

(d) The revival has commenced with the awarding of the contract for supply, installation commissioning and operation of long wall equipment in December '08. Production from the mine is scheduled to commence after 18 months from the signing of contract.

Malnutrition

†2090. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that 46 per cent of the children in the country are suffering from malnutrition and 47 per cent of the children are under weight;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been stunted physical growth of 38 per cent of children;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the future generation will be weak due to weak children and this would adversely affect the economic progress of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-III (2005-06), in India 42.5% children under the age of five years are underweight and 48% are stunted.

(c) Malnutrition during pregnancy can result in low birth weight and small for date babies. These children are more prone to malnutrition during all phases of life. Thus a vicious cycle of malnutrition is perpetuated. Further, malnutrition reduces capacity to work which affects the productivity in the country.

(d) The remedial steps being taken, by the Government to check problem of malnutrition are the promotion of early initiation of breastfeeding; exclusive breast feeding for the first six months of life; promotion of complementary feeding from the age of six months onwards with continuation of breast feeding up to two years of age; and counseling of mothers and care givers for healthy feeding practices in children.

A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented. The National Nutrition Mission has been set up by the nodal Ministry for Nutrition *i.e.* Ministry of Women & Child Development.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare implements the Reproductive and Child Health Programme throughout the country under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which includes:

- Specific programmes to manage micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid through supplementation. Vitamin A is supplemented for children from the age of nine months till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic Acid supplementation is provided for infants, preschool children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women.
- The National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) is implemented by provision of iodized salt throughout the country.

Spending on healthcare

†2091. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an average family in the country has to spend 6.7 per cent of its annual income on medical purposes;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and whether it is also a fact that this expenditure on health is due to expensive medical system;

(c) if not, the reaction of Government thereto and whether health insurance system can help to get rid of this expensive medical system; and

(d) if so, the scheme of Government for health insurance system?